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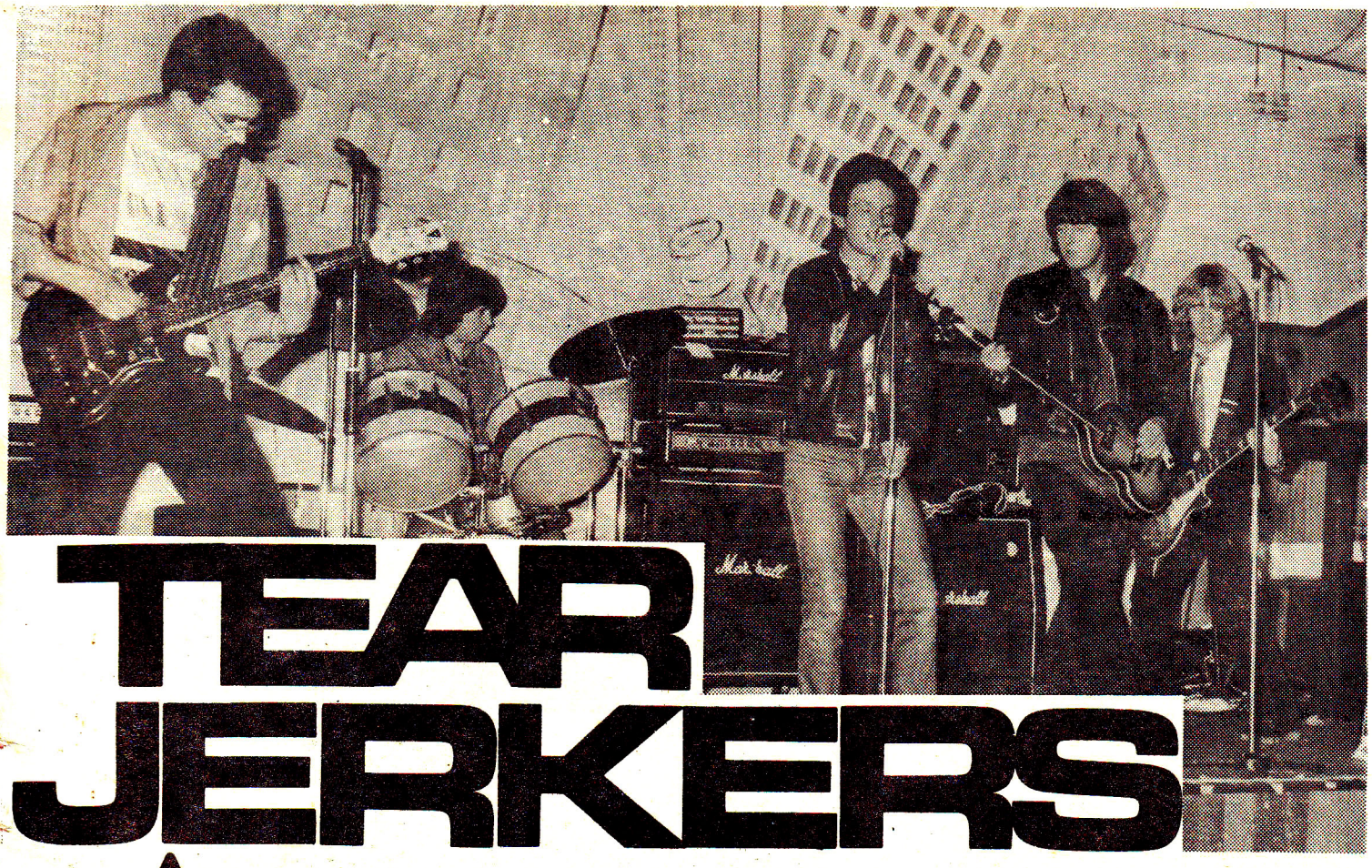
SEPTEMBER 79 FOR GREG COWAN

POSITIVE REACTION

POLL WINNERS

NO 5

20p



TEAR JERKERS

MOD REVIVAL with Chords & Moondogs * SHAPES * POLL RESULTS
idiots * john lydon interview
TEAR JERKERS Party

MANCHESTER NEWS

THE SHAPES OF THINGS TO COME

BY SIMON MACMILLAN

Before last night all I knew about this band was !Batman, Beans, Girls and Natter. In other words I!d bought there fantastic E.P. when it came out recently. I!d heard there equally good John Peel session and began to take a real interest in the band. I managed to get the bassist phone No, and rang him up. He told me they were going to play London the next day. The gig had not been advertised at all which is why so few , a dozen or so people who turned up at the door could appreciate the excellence of this band.

THE SHAPES comprise of five members, SEYMOUR BYBUS, (vocals & accrobatics) BRIAN (21 today) bass, STEVE RICHARDS (guitar), DAVE DEE (drums) TIM GEE (guitar). The band were formed in 77 and have since undergone a few line up changes but are essentially still the original band.

The gig at the fulham Greyhound supporting a hippy band called Sassafras and seeing that most hippies and headbangers were down at the Hammersmith Odeon seeing Status Quo there were very few there.

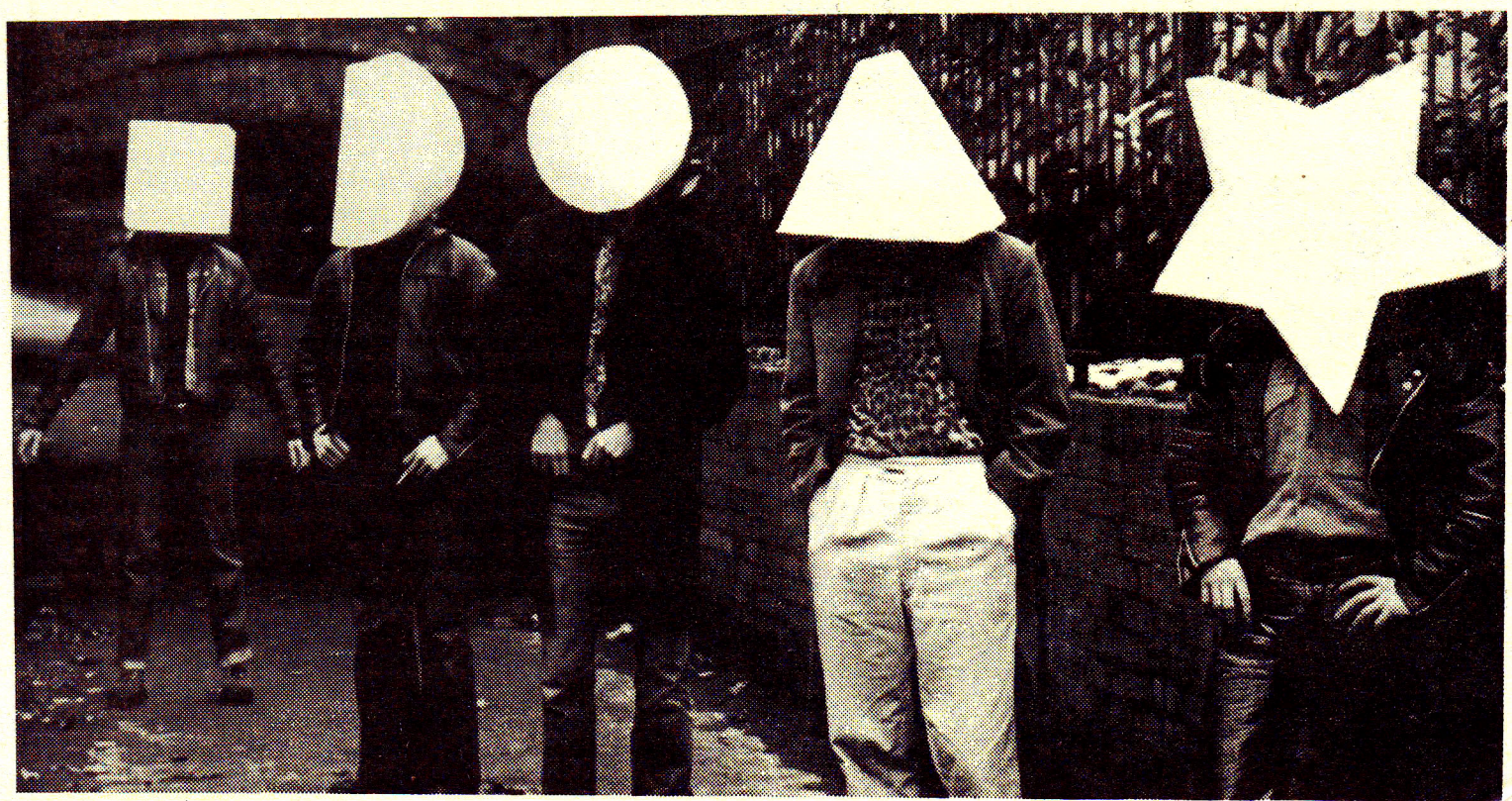
THE SHAPES finally got together about 8.30 cos Seymour and Dave got lost and ended up outside Buckingham Palace before a friendly cop directed them.

Finally they take the stage about 9.30 and storm into a set of songs like !Blast Off!, Ban The Bomb! being partially memorable. Their songs are so amazingIt catchy even more so than the Undertones. The subject of them being wide and varied, from !Airline Disasters! to !What You Do If You Marry A Martian!

After the gig I had a chat with Seymour and Brian . I first asked Brian (aka Garth) about the band,! !Well ,we!ve been around since 77 in one form or another. We were once signed to E.M.I. but they fucked us off so much that we decided to put it out on an independant label!.

The record is on their own label SOFA RECORDS and has now sold 7,000 copies and has made quite a bit of money for the band. They are quite happy with their own label but their next single is coming out on GOOD VIBES. The group told me they are not keen to join a label , and this is a one off deal to see how it works. We don!t want to be tied down to a massive contract! Brian tolded me. The move towards Good Vibes could be one of the best moves the band have made. As with all Good Vibes groups there is no contract and it is up to the label to push the records and leave the group more time to concentrate on the live gigs and everyday running of group. It is also up to Good Vibes to prove the label is worthy of the group. ! Brian ! Take the Ruts for example they have signed up for 8 years which is terrible. He goes on with; The only thing we want at the moment is an agency so we can get more regular gigs cos we really love gigging.! Seymour writes most of the songs and says he does!nt have any influences, He uses his imagination and anyone who can think up a song about seeing Batman at the laundrette must have a pretty good imagination. I!m certain this band are going to be huge by the end of the year, and if they are not just show how ignorant and pathetic the whole bussiness is today.

Do yourself a favour, forget about white riots and suspect devices. Go and see this band and be amazed. !We are not really into politics all we want to do is entertain and have a good laugh at the same time! Seymour.



Yes,it has been a long time since the last issue of PR. and don't get the idea that we're going to fade away slowly just like all the other fanzines in Northern Ireland did,no way.We're getting bigger and now that Good Vibes Print Workshop is taking over the printing gradually its bussiness bussiness all the way and lots of work ahead.

Lots of things have been happening since issue four so here are the main things;

Print Workshop underthe supervision of the'boss' himself is printing future issues of Positive reaction bringing its circulation to I,000. That means if you appear in it it I.000 people are being educated.

Rough Trade,the record shop in London who usually sell 20 copies of the fanzine have asked for 50 copies of future issies as they say it sells out so fast,wonder why!

In Terri Hoolys soon to be released single 'Laugh at Me' the inside sleeve notes include a quote from PR-'Good old Terri,he's the daddy of them all".

John Peel is playing the Outcasts debut album endlessly because its the best and keeps sending us silly postcards of Ed Stewpot Stewart.

The Tearjerkers have been voted your favourite band BY YOU and Paul Maxwell of the Tearjerkers has been voted fav singer-see inside for all. On the Tearjerkers they are to return to Omagh yet again after all the bother that was created against them previously.We can count on them it won't ever happen again.The band recently recorded a five song session for Ulsters Downtown Radio which was broadcast on Monday August 27th.

As PR told you in issue 3or 4 the Pursey/Pistols thing was all a hoax. Well,you wouldn't believe us-no wonder we say we're the best with the news-up you Steven McAnena.

Alternative Ulster the fanzine which died this years ex writer Gavin Martin has recently been showing his writing skills in NME.A brilliant piece on the Outcasts-by the way Tony Parsons is leaving NME so Gavin you'd have a fair chance and you deserve it too.Good luck anyway.

Sadley as usual you've heard of the Free Derry Festival being cancelled but its not unusual.Just the sort of thing you'd been expecting anyway. Good job too it was cancelled 'cos Nigel Hamilton is still awaiting a a call from Feargel Sharkey to confirm whether they are on the bill or not.

The Post office have been up to their best as usual lately ewhen TEN Tearjerkers singles were posted to us from Portadown they didn't arrive. Ripped off or not I get visions of the Head Postmaster in his office bopping away to Love Affair. Ha ha ha.

Glad to see you've bought this issue or nicked it-thanks for buying it and don't take it all serious-Goodbye.

MANCHESTERS BURNING DIAL 999....

LOCAL NEWS BY BRIAN DAVIES.

'The last bastions of punk',Slaughter and the Dogs have re-formed with ex Eater drummer Phil Rowlands on drums and signed to DJM. A single is due out soon,Cranked Up really High has been re-issued on RABID.

Meanwhile,the Distractions are signed to Tony Wilsons 'Factory Records' and the next single is 'Times Goes by so Slow',and with a bit of luck this should smash the charts open.Its one of my favourite records of the year.

NOT sensible have signed or are signing a production deal to Edd Ball recording studios and 'Im in love with Margaret Thatcher' should see the light of day soon.

The next to release on RHESUS Records(famous for the Tunes + The Donkeys) are singles by the Catches and the Thompson Twins.

JOY Divisions next single is the very brilliant 'Transmission' coupled with NOvelty.

Apologies to Object Music for what I said about 'A M'Chester Collection' in last issue,I've since heard all the album and bought it and its very good,very good value too!

Even better value is TJM's 'Identity Parade' LP.Theres lots of singles coming from TJM.Expecta single from Belfast band VICTIM on the label soon.

EVER FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A CITY YOU SHOULDN'T'VE ?

My idea's about Manchester were always high.The Buzzcocks come from there,my favourite band en all,maybe I could go over and meet thelads walking bout the city,no way.I spent two weeks in Manchester and I must say,(although it hurts) its boring,worse then home.Its when you get to a place like this you realise what home really means.

No proper venues,no punks,no fun,no nothing,a fast life too much for me,no Outcasts,no Tearjerkers,no Good Vibrations,no nout !! The big Manchester Scene you've been heard all about is false,and if it does exist it is buried somewhere among the 20 storey blocks that cover the city centre.

Well all in all,the people are friendly,the boys are decent,you get a decent drink and the pubs close too early.

Anyway wa word of mention to the following hoods who made my visit a bit of a luxury;

Brian,Dave,Keith,Bert,Paul,Ray(Nemo!),Jimmy,Charlie,Phil, Chris,Jason,Jason,Rob,TIZER?? and Jenny.

FOUR

Idiots

BARRY YOUNG Gtr.
BILLY JOHNSON Voc.
GARY THOMPSON Drms.
GRAHAM JOHNSON Bs.

FROM BELFAST.

Like many bands in Northern Ireland these days they all come from Belfast, the Idiots are no exception. My first real encounter with the band was in Belfast a feww months back when I was escorted down the main street by Barry Idiot and Gary Idiot. Nothing really exciting, just a few nosey questions on my part and later back to Good Vibes record shop where Billy came in got an LP and never had the chance to get too involved with our pleasant conversation.

Later I discovered Barry was Brian Young of the brilliant Rudi's wee bruvver so having his phone number and address the whole thing just got under way. Just listen to The Idiots track on the Good Vibes Battle of the Bands EP entitled 'PARENTS' and you'll understand.

The Idiots formed in February '78, a time when Belfast was bussling with new bands springing up from nowhere. After several changes in the line up they found a stable line up and that has remained unchanged since.

Barry...."The early dates were hectic with the infamous Glenmackin bash being disastrous. After several months we seemed to have a stable line up so we went to Wizard Studios and recorded the first song we ever wrote-the result was 'Parents'."

Gigging frequently with many of the other Belfast bands like Rudi, the Androids, Ruefrex and Protex they find they cannot play to many gigs nowadays because of Grahams A levels. However they did play the Dublin 24 Hour Festival.

Barry...."We recieved an enthusiastic reception considering it was 9.am.!!

The band are busy writing their own new material as they find their old songs dull and the new ones go pretty well down with the audience. Their first gig by the way was at the Windsor Hotel in Belfast with Rudi and Victim and the set included 'Substitute, Sewwet Jane and Teenager in Love'. The soundtrack of the Belfast punk movies 'Shell Shock Rock' features the Idiots doing two versions of Teenager in Love.

Barry...."In the near future we have two recording sessions to do. One is to record a single for Good Vibes but the titles are undecided yet and the other is one track for another Good Vibes EP featuring four bands. Our track is 'You'll never Know" and we hope to do a real production job on it-it will be produced by John Davies."-(of Shell Shock Rock fame).

Barry tells me of a song of theirs called 'Dirty Little Girl' which was written about someone they knew. He says someone cut their wrists 'cos they thought the song was about them-it wasn't and the cut wasn't serious, martyrs already!! The other songs are 'Parents', You'll never Know', 'Hooked on You', Distant Love'-both new songs and two more frsh tracks called No Illusions and They all Said'. At the moment their set still includes Substitute, Paranoid and Teenager in Love, plus the added bonus of the Rollers song 'Keep on Dancing' which Barry admits is a great song.

exclussive: IDIOTS ARE NOW A THREE PIECE. SEEMLY BILLY JOHNSON HAS LEFT DUE MUSICAL DEFFERENCES

PTO.....

Idiots

I thought to finish i'd just ask a few straight forward questions. This is what came out of it all.....

PR. How did the band come about ?

BARRY..."The band came about from an idea by myself and Dee on a drunken Saturday night-it was just for a laugh".

PR. Was big brother Brian an influence ?

BARRY..."Thats a very difficult question,certainly he did teach me a few basic bar-chords musically he has had some influence.

PR. Was Brians connection with Good Vibes anything to do with the Battle of the Bands ?

BARRY..."Funnily enough I was asked that by a fellow from Derry the honest answer is that Brian had absolutley nothing to do with it-Terri H. saw us at the disastrous Glenmackin gig and for some reason he wanted to do it.

PR. Any future singles ?

BARRY..."We have one track on a four track ep and a single of our own to come out for the Xmas market ".

PR. Finally,whats your view on Good Vibrations ?

BARRY..."Nearly all the Good Vibes singles are pretty good. Terri himself has done a lot to be proud of and in my opinion manyn of those who criticise him are just jealous ".

We certainly will be keeping you informed with any news on the band. The Idiots are great,their music is great and most of all their attitude is great.

Thnks to IDIOTS

GOT I2 RUDI.....4TRACK EP.
I Spy;Genuine Reply;
Sometimes;Ripped in 2;

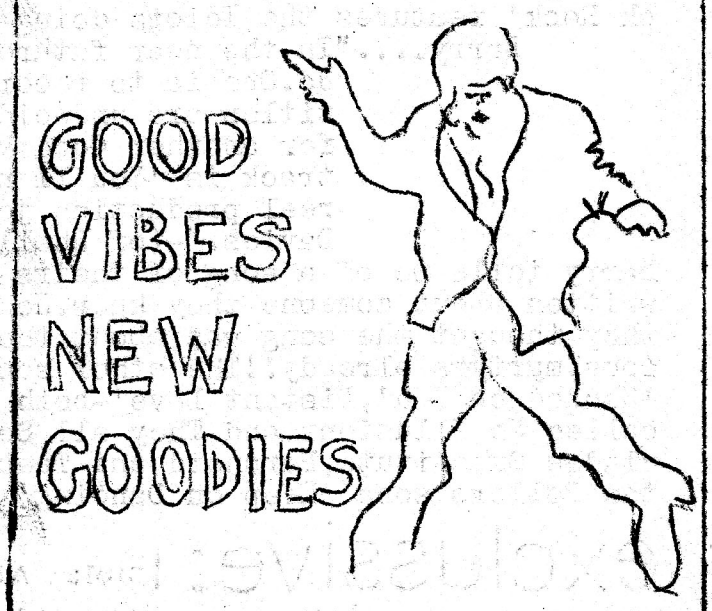
The James Bond intro ofI Spy are all the memories I have of Rudi doing I Spy on their Irish tour,I prefer Genuine Reply though.

Sometimes and Ripped in Two are good but below the power and drive of the others.

GOT 9 TEARJERKERS.
Love Affair;Bus Stop.

The Tearjerkers as you should know by now are my fav. band on the Good Vibrations label.Favourites because they will come down and play for anyone,as long as theres an audience they will be there.Well Love Affair recorded in Keystone Dublin comes through really very well although it lacks the real power and drive that is generates when played live.

Bus Stop, the re-arranged Detonators number is better here than ever.You can hold it in your hand and feel the warm vocals inside it trying to escape,Paul at his best,Nigel at his best,Howard at his best and me at my worst,as usual!



Farewell to the BARRELL and Basket, Omagh.

16.8.79.

The 'Barrell and Basket' in Omaghs Castle Street was the towns only good venue until its recent selling and under new management w ill be a groovy night discoteque, who wants them who needs them. Tonight was the night all the bands around were fighting to get, The Tearjerkers, the only band to arrouse a strong following in the venue in a long time got the booking a the 16 August the date, the grande finale.

No one in Belfast at all really knows the sheer power and the energy that the Tearjerkers generate through their live gigs, unless you have seen them yourself.

This was their fifth gig in Omagh and once again, aspredicted, they played with some sort of nervousness, but soon got the spirit of the night with the distributing of party streamers, baloons and other party making accessories.

Unfortunatley a minor riot did break out at the close of their set, nothinh serious but this did pass mostof the mi nds in the hall who wanted to dance and not fight. The band did give us the best two hours of our lives indeed.

With a set which included all the old favourites; Gun Rubber; Shes Gone; Chit Chat and Were Dancin' plus the new songs Comic book Heros Dressin' Up; Suzy and Jenny Jenny, which show that they can write some really catchy brilliant, love-based tunes.

The band themselves really love this venue and they show it, they share their drinks with anyone willing to takl to them. They're no big ego superstars, they're too young for that yet, they're just kids.

Before they hit the stage they stay at the bar, Betty the manager buys them drink, they smoke her cigarettes, shes good to them, they're spoilt. Paul looks optimistic as always and he can handle and audience.

It the usual faces inside except for the odd couple in the corner snogging. Why did they come in the first place, should have stayed in bed!

Howard Ingram on bass is up to his usual mischievness, slagging everyone, pulling sly remarks, Paul the Groover is on the dance floor as always, glasses of hair on. Paul does his Hot Rods impersonation, standing on the barriers, hanging from the PA, lying on the floor.

The new songs from the set bring to light the ract that the band can write excellent tunes. Nigel and Paul are usually responsible for this and they do so together, sometimes its Paul the Groover but no always.

Comic Book Hero's surely is a great tuhe but personally my favourites are; Murder Mystery; Suzy; Jenny Jenny (release that quick) and Armpits.

The band usually end the night with Waiting for my Man and go straight to the encore with lasts another 15-30 minutes. To night they got halfway through Waiting for my Man when a fight broke out, the band are attacked, the roadies are set on but the band react quick and the 6-7 rowdies are ejected. The band try to restart but they are continually being pelted with glasses and bottles they make the obvious decision, they leave the stage., the police are alled in the hall is cleared. No one has been injured, fortunatley.

Due tothe fact that the managment acted slowly and in a very slow manner this may not have happened. They will be back anyway.

A success gig in the sense the Tearjerkers have gained themselves double the support they ever had. Omagh wants tem back, the band will return again soon. This time undoubtadley with whatevers neccessary to keep trouble at a minimum.

The TEARJERKERS

eb.

F A R E W E L L

TO

THE MOONLIGHT CLUB, LONDON

It was announced recentky that one of Londons top 'punk' clubs in West Hampstead is to follow the Roxy and a score of others into non existance as far as punks are concerned. This is because the new management dislikes the 'type of people' the Moonlight is attracting. Haven't we heard that sort of thing somewhere before.

The Moonlight had has some top bands playing their in its brief history. The UK Subs; The Raincoats; The Boys; the Innocent Bystanders; The Members and the Mo-dettes.

In the early days hardly anye one went there, or even knew of its existance. At one gig I went to when the UK Subs were supporting the Nekromats!, there was omly about I5 punks with a few middled aged Hampsted trendies dotted around the bar. Then it began to get name drops in the gossip columns of the music press and suddenly it became the IN place to go, until one of its last gigs when Paul Cook was there.

However even in its hey-day there was never any real violence and it never felt the need to employ an army of bouncers to keep the peace. I, and many others will be left with old happy memories of the great time we had there and I'd like to thank John Moonlight and everyone involved in the running of the club and lets hope they get another place soon.

==========

Passions/MO-DETTES/Johnny G.
MOONLIGHT CLUB, LONDON.

Despite the terrible reviews in certain music papers I decided to see for myself what the Mo-dettes were like. I'd seen them play one number before, at the begging, of an Innocent Bystanders set and thought they were reasonable.

Arriving slightly later I found Paul Cook, the ex Pistol had just arrived, without Jones!

About IOpm the Mod-ettes arrived on stage dressed in a variety of outfits. The lead guitarist had a tennis suit on and the bass player claimed he was a teddy girl.

Throughout the set they seemed determined to assure us that they weren't mods, telling two mods they were I6 years too late. Their set was maily basic 'punk' songs with a definate Siouxsie sound.

My favourites were Twist & Shout; My Favourites Things which was dedicated to The Kray Twins & they did an encore of the first song from the set.

About 30 minutes later the Passions came on, sounding like a poor ripp off of the Rezillos. I left later...nuff said. My advice is to forget what you read in the papers and go and see the Mod-ettes for yourself, they're the best female band I've seen since the Slits and the Raincoats!!!

BOB-THE KILBURN REBEL

++++++++++++

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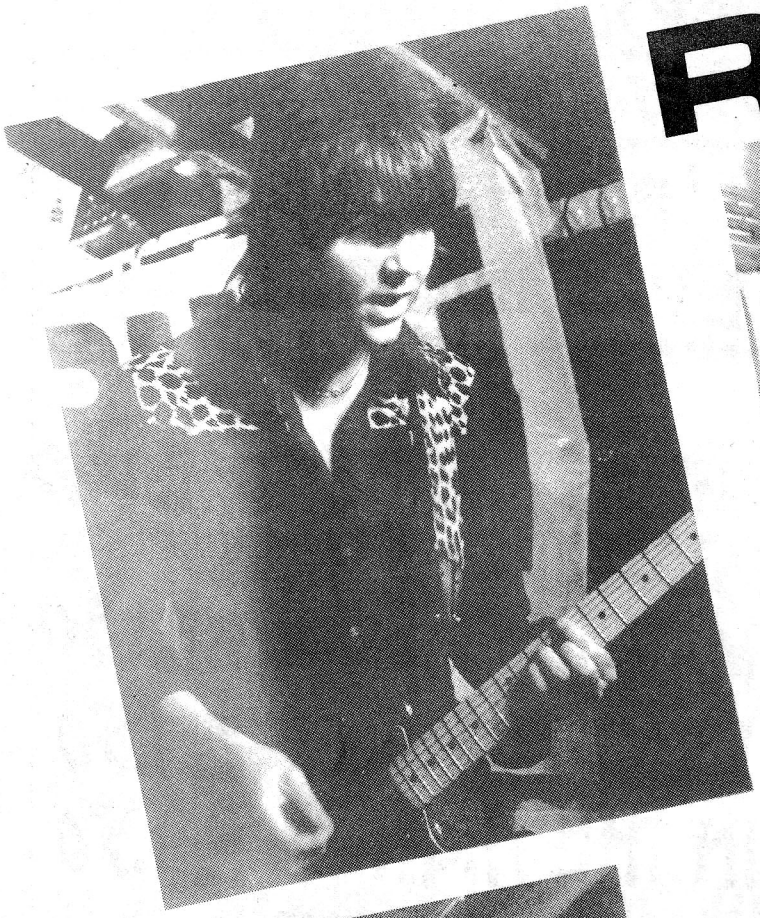

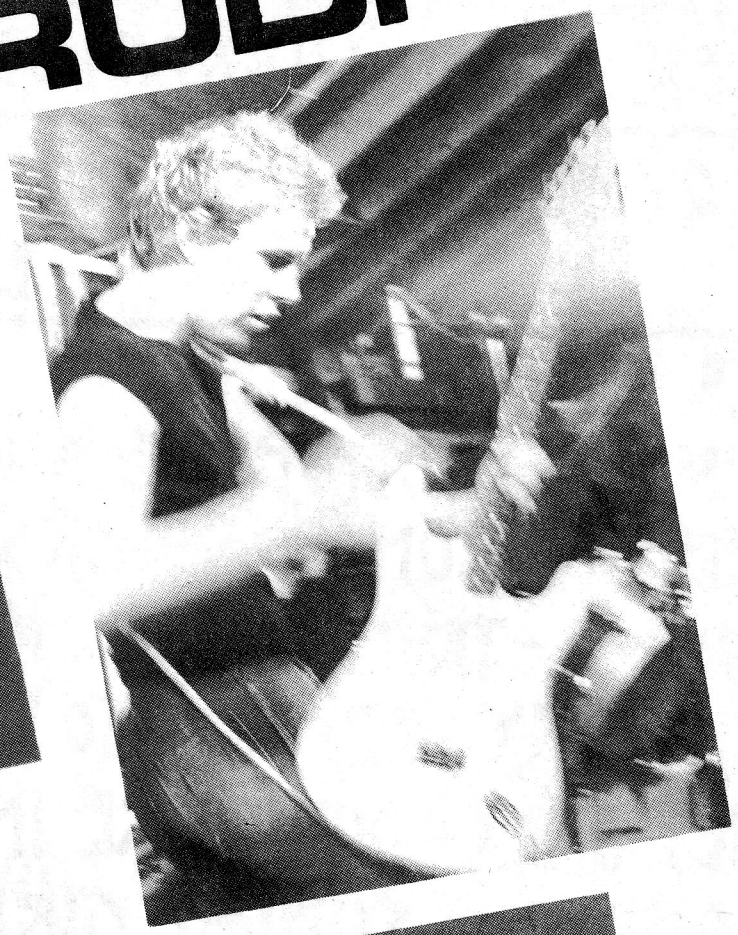

GOT 1

BIG TIME

AND GOT 12

I-SPY

E.P.

THE DERRY BOYS

THE MONTHLY LOOK AT DERRY MASTERMINDED BY GENE TURBETT WITH LOTS OF HELF FROM EUGENE MARTIN AND ALL THE GROUPS FEATURED AND VINNEY O'NEILL!

The Undertones, as you all know are from Derry so Gene Turbett got a hold of Micky Bradley the bubbly eating bass player as asked him a few of the usual silly questions and found him somewhat interesting and funny.

PR. What did you think of appearing on Top of the Pops ?

MB. "Top of the Pops was great especially if there's good groups on. It doesn't be as good, the more you're on. Its always good crackmseeing yourself in the crowd when other groups are on ".

PR. Why do you not like touring England ?

MB. "'Cos were dead lazy and have to play the same song every night. Its good ataying in hotels and getting good breakfasts ".

PR. What are your favourite groups ?

MB. "My favourite grorps are The Jam and The 'New York Dolls", nothing really different. I can't say what the others in the band are".

PR. What do you think of the mod groups and the Mod fashion.?

MB. "The fashion is just a fashion, although some of the groups are really good. I don't know why it didn't start when the Jam appeared. I don't know why they started calling them mods cos that was all years ago. As long as the records are good I don't care what they are".

PR. Have you's any plans of a tour in Ireland ?

MB. "We'LL do a tour about November, we still play in Derry but we can't afford to go to Belfast because we signed to ASGARD agency and if we play outside Derry they would have to arrange it. Therefore they need commision.".

PR. What do you think of the new groups in Derry ?

MB. "T"ey're good, it's just a pity they didn't start earlier then some couldn't cos they had no gear or money ".

Thanks to Micky Bradley of The 'tones.

Gene Turbett.

'CUM ON FEEL THE NOIZE'

THE ORCHARD GALLERY
I4 JULY 79.

IDLE THREATS ; Carmel Skipper Vocals
Eddie Mc Daid Vocals
Chang Bass
Micky Griffiths Drums
Heinz Guitar

THE CORNER BOYS ;
Linus McLaughlin Bass
Tich Mc Laughlin Drums
Kenny McLaughlin Vocals
Sean Guitar

MOONDOGS; Austin Barrett Drums
Jackie Hamilton Bass+vocals
Gerry McCandless Guitar + vocals

UNDERTONES
Damien O'Neill Guitar
Micky Bradley Bass
Billy Doherty Drums
Feargal Sharky Vocals
John O'Neill Guitar

Tich McLaughlin was on loan to the Undertones for the night as Billy was missing!

DICK TRACY AND THE GREEN DISASTER; Dick Tracy wombat
Donal McDermott Singer
Micky McCauly Guitar
Feargal McDermott Bass
Tich McLaughlin (on loan) drums

This was the third night of bands in the Orchard Gallery. The event goes under the name 'Cum on feel the Noise'. On the first night Dick Tracy and the Green Disaster played along with 'Idle Threat'. The second night The Moondogs and 'Idle Threat' played. These two nights had good attendance and all was taken in pretty good humour. But the third night was the night everyone was waiting of. he Undertones played alongside all three bands as well as the debut of the 'Corner Boys'.

First to play were 'Idle Threat'. They have two singers, one a girl Some of their songs include 'I'm a Mass' and 'Little green men on the Moon'. I must admit the Idle Threats try to be different.

The 'Corner Boys' came on next. They had a set of six songs one an excellent version of ATV's Action Time and Vision. The band are young and play well for a debut. They have a lot of time to improve and get more original songs.

Next the Moondogs and with the added help of an extra guitarist played their soon to be released Good Vibrations single 'Shes Nineteen'. Other tracks were Jenny, Two Time and their covers were Boys' by The Beatles and 'First Time by the Boys!! Some say they are a mod band. I don't know they definatley play good rock n roll and thats good enough for me anyhow,.

Dick Tracy and the Green Disasters played next but were not too exciting and played a few originals with the added help of a few covers; 'new rose and neat neat neat. A specail word of thanks to Dick, who helped orginaise the gig.

Finally on came the Undertones, Billy was missing so they used stand in drummer Tich McLaughlin from the Corner Boys. Naturally the Undertones were playing all the favourites, the four singles and a lot of the album. What more can I say except they were brilliant as always.

FUTURE PLANS

Idle Threats hope to release a five song ep / The Corner Boys go back to practice land / The Moondogs release a single on Good Vibrations / Dick Tracy go back to University and The Undertones have set up an Autumn tour and possible American support to the Clash. EUGENE MARTIN,

THE MOONDOGS WILL BITE YOU !!

Over the past six months several groups have emerged in Derry.One of these groups is a three piece known as The Moondogs. Vincent O'Neill done us a favour and interviewed them.

The Moondogs formed in August '78 and comprised of Vinney O'Neill (bass) Gerry Mc Candless (leadguitar) and Austin Barrett (drums).In October Vinney left.and was replaced by Jackie Hamilton.Gigs in both the north and south usually as support when the band go down very well alongside bands such as the Outcasts and Rudi they have already gained the attention of Melody Maker.

PR. How did the Moondogs name come about ?

GERRY. "It's from John Lennons original group Johnny and the Moondogs".

PR. Who would your maininfluences be ?

JACKIE. "The Beatles and the Jam would be mine".
GERRY . "The Undertones put me on the new stuff,I always liked the Beatles".

PR. How much has The Undertones laying a foundation for punk been a help to you ?

JACKIE. "Great,like the Undertones got slagged and all that you know. We hardly got any of that,Shantallow was the only place ".
AUSTIN. "They broke the ice for everyone to start".

PR. Would you classify yourselves as a MOD group ?

JACKIE. "Now that I don'tknow,people say we turned mod.We didn't we just realised that we were mod as a class to be put into and we just like that kind of music style anyway".

PR. When is your single "She's Nineteen" being released ?

AUSTIN. "It was supposed to be the I5th Aughust but the B'Town Rats shot to number one so all the minor pressings were put aside.It might be out about September.
GERRY. "I'm fucked off waiting on it ".

PR. What do you think are your best songs ?

JACKIE. "The most commercial song;like 'Two Time" and 'To know her/is to lose her'.
AUSTIN. "My favourite song is 'Boys'.the Beatles song"
GERRY. "Popstars".

pto

— MOONDOGS INTERVIEW continued.....

PR. What reaction did you's get when you played Belfast + Dublin ?

JACKIE. "The first time we played the Happ was support to the Outcasts, the crowd were half coming in when we were on. They sat down and watched and listened to see what we were like. Dublin was much the same ".

GERRY. "Belfast wasn't too hot but Dublin was good".

PR. Are you hoping the single will do as well as Teenage Kicks ?

GERRY. "That one wouldn't. The time we recorded it we jad just four or five songs and that was the best".

PR. Would you like to tour England ?

AUSTIN. "I would !! ".

JACKIE. "I don't know, theres lots of bands there, if we got the chance we would ".

Thanks to the Moondogs and Vin. O'Neill.

P.R. POLL RESULT!

— THIS IS HOW YOU VOTED - THE NATION. —

FAV. BAND : TEARJERKERS
FAV. SINGER (MALE) : PAUL MAXWELL OF TEARJERKERS
" " (FEMALE) : SIOUXSIE SIOUX
FAV. MUSIC PAPER : NME.
FAV. FANZINE : GUESS WHO ??
MOST UNLIKED PERSON : TONY BLACKBURN
WHO WOULD YOU KILL THE QUICKEST : JOHNNY ROTTEN
WHO WOULD YOU SEDUCE THE QUICKEST ? : PAULINE MURRAY (PENETRATION)

zebra ZEBRA zebra crowned King of the jungle!

BY Tom Craig

About time someone from 'Positive Reaction' took a look at whats happening in Dublin so I travelled down heedles of all currency problems and splitting hangover.

Zebra plus support read the posters for McGonagles which rates as Dublins only rock n roll night club and one of the cities leading venues in Hot Press' year book, personally I disagree with a fee of £2.50 entrance(with supper voucher) and only wine or Martini on sale at the bar.

The support band were supposed to be U-2 but I think the Moondogs from Derry actually played instead, the stage announcements were like a Northerner so I thought It was them.

Zebra havepuzzled me for sometime. I first came across the name a couple of months ago and the idea of an Irish reggae band did not sound right. After seeing the gig advertised, nothing could stop me ffom visiting the 'fair city'.

One complaint levelled at the band being the number of non original songs in the set. They stress that they intend to use more original songs but at the moment all people over here have to compare them with is reggae reminds so other peoples numbers give them listeners a known point of reference. Sadley their choice of tunes were slighlty unadventurous. Several Bob Marley covers and Peter Tosh's 'get up, Stand up'. Good songs indeed especially the Tosh songs but there is a wealth of great material to be found more deserving odf a hearing. Anyway roll on the day they get a a totally original set together.

The band hit the stage and fro the start its obvious that these boys aren't just playing at being a reggae band, the sound was sharp and clear and the band provide an interesting sight in that the members vary from white through half cast to black.

I found the band pretty impressive but I'm sure they have much of a chance of getting to a wider audience especially over here where the music is watered down that makes the Top thirty.

There is talk of a single from Good Vibrations but no sign of it yet, i'd travel down to Dublin to see them again so theres hoping they stick at it.

BAND LINE UP;

STEVE REBAD	Guitar vocals
PETER DEANE	VOCALS
MARK McCORMACK	Keyboards
LEO MALLON	Drums
BERNIE RONGEL	Percussion, vocals
BRIAN ?	Bass .

zebra ZEBRA zebra

SIMPLE MINDS, not the band, The story of SHAM 69

That anyone could ever regard Jimmy Pursey a his three dumbo stooges as anything other than pure farcial comedy is beyond me. But when you realise thatthis self-distructing time bomb (not a second too soon, but many too late) became the most popular exponents of a dull three dhord thud for would be Sabaff freaks that some people call punk(this, The Pistols and Public Image, c'mon gang-where the hells the conncetion); well the implications are not a little scary.

Firstly it meant a prize arse hole like Pursey became a Youth Culturess chief spokesman(abolition of licensing laws, government, sponsering dog racing and more answers-less questions!). Not content with accepting himself as the pathetic media puppet he was Pursey actually took himself seriously playing the role of street-sussed primitive philosopher in an obscenely distorted caricature, like Lou Reed once said 'the kids were being hyped'.

Secondly what some people euphemistically call Sham's innocence(I prefer idiocy) made their simplistic rallying chants(I don't wanna.'Tell us the Truth','Questions and Answers') ripe for the uncovering of facistic traits in their audience. The crude definitions of a world where if something wasn't wrong it was right, or if something wasn't black it was white was just the seed needed for ferocious meathed righteousness and skull-busting to flourish. Pursey appeared to be too bloddy thick to realise there actually was people with heads thicker than his own.

And when Jimmy'man of the people' Pursey appeared on ITV's Good Afternoon with the startling addition to the hefty tome'The Sham Philosoprhy'-Selwyn Froggitt style' about how fighting facism was akin to putting a rabbitt down a rabbit hole, well it became obvious a camel had more chance of passing through a needles eye than Jimmy Pursey had of casting pearls of wisdom to the swine.

Hadn't Shams first single (Ulster) been didatic enough to make SLF seem like Henry Cow. Wasn't the line 'No winners only losers(indicative of their stunning talent for a cogent brevity, wasn't it amazing how Jimmy(who'd never been west of Stranraer) felt able to summarise the provinces sad predicament. Thanks Jim, I guess you're just what we needed.

Not content to stop there sham reached what was perhaps t the apex of their career on 'The Kids are United' the stunning logic of 'the kids are united, they will nver be devided' being the epitome of Shams output; that sort of fanciful silliness and shallowness-nursey rhymes for blockheads. And the NME's Pauls Morley told us to approach the dour, depressing concept(gee) album as comedy. But it was far from laughable merely gutless a facile beer belly Jimmy waggishly peeping out of the arse end of a sewee sewer with cloth cap and omnipresent fag hanging from the mouth.

Sham have gone now, Polydors punky income now being supplied by the Jam, but Pursey does not intend to lie down. Old rock stars never quit while the goings good, they fade and wilt like sick and diseased flowers. Even, it seems, those who were never much good to begin with.

Gavin Martin

CONTROL ZONE

BEGINS HERE IN OMAGH.

BARRY SWEEN - GTR/VOC
MUSH - BASS
AIDY CONNELLY - DRUMS

The tall six foot figure that everyone is turning their heads to see is that of Aidy Connelly drummer with the new rising punk outfit from Omagh, Control Zone. Dressed in the original Nazi gear, swastika's and boots he parades alongside myself in our local department of Wellworths. People stare, the older men get memories of their war experiences and cringe at him. Last week saw the band along with R U I 2 the other new Omagh band with Casper tour the town's estates, community centre's on the back of a low-loader lorry in a bid to liven the surrounding areas out of their apathy, sittting back in suburbia watching TV.

They succeeeded in doing so, a few local complaints to the town council from folk who couldn't hear their televisions, what the hell its our future not theirs.

Control Zone emerged after the break up of Straitjacket and stayed at home generally practising their set of original tunes while most of Omagh was indulging in the heat-wave that we never experienced.

Other members of theband are Mush, the un-intelligent bass player who learned to play in days and Barry Sween the small I5 year old blonde skin with a voice like nothing on earth and a guitar that would demolish anything in sight.

"Rock n' Roll Victim" dedicated to Straitjacket with the catchy line 'Mammy, can I go out with Gene Obscene', what a laught

"Whats going on around here' was a phrase of T.Terrors and the remaining numbers that belong to them are strong and evryone can pogo to them.

Other local talent RUI2 quickly following in their foot steps led by Martion on bass, Adrian Mullen on drums, Marty Donnelly on vocals and guitar and Paul Devlin on guitar the youngest new band about. Originally they were called Good Vibes but were advised different.

RUI2 are so young they'll be back at school on Monday they get their gear by saving their £I a week pocket money together and they improve from gig to gig.

At a recent gig at Omaghs CKS centre(so I'm told) the atmosphere is electric, fans are ranging from I2 up, just like the I00 Club days of the Pistols, everyones pogoing, Aidy of the Control Zone sits on his kit surrounded by dozens of cans of beer, he's I6 and surely an underaged drinker, Barry plays loud the fans scream and go wild, a girl is punched in the face and a small boy is puked over, back to the good old days, Omagh has got the proper feeling about it nowadyays

EB.

John Lydon Public Image Ltd

Why did the SEX PISTOLS really split, who left who, did Johnny get sacked or did he leave them is the question people are still asking each other. Johnny rarely gives interviews with anyone never mind fanzines, well we've done it.

He spoke sternly and just left one message for us, it was;

'Don't be honoured like a pet dog,
Rust never dies, don't forget to listen to
Neil Youngs new album maaan.....'

THE INTERVIEW

P.R. Did you find it hard to get a new band formed.

J.R. Yes, we did. No money did'nt help but the idea was right and cash can always be got if you really want it. What was and is out of order is (the press) the publics attitude.

What was expected of us was just not on. stuff like rock'n'roll should be buried. The pistols was right at first but the it became too serious, they were forcing us into the ridiculous situation of 'mega stars' by the press and (Muck-Laren), which Joe Public wanted, demanded and condemned all at the same time. I can't speak for the rest cause they were not worth it, but I know myself that I was despised.

Audiences made me into the very thing I hated for all kinds of selfish reasons and then dared point fingers. Memories like that I don't want again. I will not be anybodys favourite dart-board.

P.R. Were you pleased with your album P.I.L. both musically and success wise?

J;R; P.I.L. one was brill. We don't use producers or any middle man. No one can know better than themselves how they should sound. Producers are hired usually to get a better sound, a commericial sound. But we want a P.I.L. sound and fucking got it.
too bad if it were'nt liked but aint that because of ignorant expectations and feeble minds only thinking in terms
in limited brackets. You can dance to all of it, and I don't mean ' idiot dancing ', it ain't 12 bar rock n roll which I hate, the content blab blab and so on.
How come no cunts saw the cover as a piss take. Over time cunts thought it was us trying to be trendy, after the press told them what to think that is.
It got a slagging, it was'nt listentoo cos it was'nt like punk or the pistols. Fuck punk, I started it, I know what it is better than any cunt.!!

P.R. People say it was a ripp-off...just a way of testing the public to see if they were still with you.....is this in any way partiallly true?

J.R. I don!t need to test anyone, I do what I want and care. How were the public ever with me? Some maybe. Just wanted fashion and to look different cos thata what a non person, no brains person does for attention.

P.R. Why was there a fast difference in your styles of music? Was it because you wanted to put the Pistols style behind you.

J.R. I joined the Pistols for a laugh, meant what I wrote but always hated rock, but that was the easiest racket to bash out since no one could play, still can!t but love every minute of it. Why should PIL be the same, would that not be a format a cliche, a routine, we don!t want to be dull.

P.R. Out of all the gigs PIL have done, which was the best and do the crowds still ask for Pistols music?

J.R; Manchester was best, the sound is second to the atmosphere. Up North the shit did!nt mean much. They either like it or hate it, They liked PIL. Only in London do we get the Sex Pistols requests, ha ha.

P.R. Do you think that the death of the Pistols was the beginning of the slow death of punk?

J.R. It died when all the mug bands started doing weak pansy versions to get famous, again they could!nt do it without an audience, well?

P.R. What do you think of todays music scene?

J.R. I like all music, disco!s fine, you ain1t forced to like it but you might have been fashionably persuaded to hate it! Think what are you doing to be so scared?

P.R. Will Johnny Rotten ever play Ulster?

J.R. Anywhere when I can be bothered.

P.R. What does the future hold for Johnny Rotten now.... Do you plan to play on or retire as an untarnished symbol?

J.R. J.R.? is now a PIL member, who manage, promote, design themselves. PIL do not use cheap publicity gimicks, we make an album, hear it before you buy it. Shame people don!t know what to think unless they are told. Untarnished bollocks, I am a cunt, I stayed in the Pistols too long. It should have died long back cos what I see now is worse than anything before. A fake trend of sheep in chains and leather don!t make a change from a sea of denim, Its all still uniforms.

P.R. Would you ever join up with Steve and Paul again? What do you think of the Pistols/sham69 band with Pursey on vocals?

J.R. No, they ran away in America and got Malcolm to tell me they hated me. Still, cowards have there place too I wish them well and truly nothing. Pursey is a classic dumb mug. !Come here son, coo! total puppet with bussiness pulling strings, weak, sad, feeble, if thats going to save you, happy days, huh!

P.R. What kind of music are you into now?.... Who is the best of the punks now?

J.R. All,PIL are best cos we mean what we say. When we help bands, and there are many, we don!t use it as cheap publicity It seems to me most bands do charity gigs for publicity, not charity, mentioning no names.
I love self-praise, Id have some more but I!d only be taken as usual - Johhny Rotten was here.

P.R. Do you rate the Undertones or S.L.F.?

J.R. NO.

Interview by Willie Armstrong.

Keith Levine